

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2193

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, AKB, BQG
SUBJECT: VISIT TO SPANDAU ALLIED PRISON BY UK MINISTER OF STATE
JUDD

REF: (A) USBERLIN 2074, (B) STATE 219757, (C) BONN 15542

1. AT 12 SEPTEMBER AK MEETING, ALLIED COMMANDANTS AND MINISTERS
DISCUSSED UPCOMING JUDD VISIT TO SPANDAU. VISIT IS CURRENTLY
SCHEDULED FOR 14 SEPTEMBER, IN CONJUNCTION WITH INSPECTION
OF THE PRISON BY BRITISH COMMANDANT.

2. IN LINE WITH THEIR INITIAL RESERVATIONS ABOUT VISIT BY JUDD,
FRENCH RAISED SUBJECT AT AK MEETING. THEIR ORIGINAL, MAIN
RESERVATION HAD BEEN THAT SPANDAU PRISON RULES DO NOT CONTEMPLATE
INSPECTION OF THE PRISON BY JUDD; HOWEVER, THEY HAD AGREED NOT
TO OBJECT TO HIS VISIT AND TO AWAIT SOVIET REACTION. AS
REPORTED REFTEL A, SOVIETS AGREED TO A VISIT BY JUDD SO
LONG AS THE VISIT TOOK PLACE IN CONNECTION WITH BRITISH
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COMMANDANT'S INSPECTION OF SPANDAU.

3. FRENCH REMAIN CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT JUDD WILL
MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS WHICH WILL RESULT IN A LESSENING
OF THE HARMONIOUS WORKING RELATIONSHIP THAT EXISTS
BETWEEN THE GOVERNORS AT SPANDAU AND REDOUND TO THE
PRISONER'S DISADVANTAGE. FRENCH CONCERNS WERE HEIGHTENED

BY INFORMATION THAT BRITISH DID PLAN TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE AFTER JUDD VISIT TO THE EFFECT THAT JUDD HAD VISITED SPANDAU AND SEEN HESS. FYI: WE ANTICIPATE THAT JUDD IS ALSO LIKELY TO RECEIVE PARLIAMENTARY AND OTHER INQUIRIES UPON HIS RETURN TO LONDON. END FYI.

4. US MINISTER ANDERSON, WHILE NOT SHARING INTENSITY OF FRENCH CONCERN, ASKED BRITISH MINISTER MACGINNIS WHETHER IT WAS REALLY NECESSARY TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE. HE ASKED WHETHER A CONTINGENCY REPLY IN THE EVENT OF A PRESS INQUIRY WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT. ANDERSON NOTED THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE FACT OF JUDD'S VISIT TO SPANDAU MIGHT NOT LEAK TO THE BERLIN PUBLIC AND IN BERLIN WE SHOULD NOT FORECLOSE THAT POSSIBILITY BY ISSUING A PRESS RELEASE.

5. MACGINNIS' PATIENCE WITH THIS AND OTHER SUGGESTIONS WAS RATHER THIN, INDICATING TO US THAT JUDD MAY NOT BE TOO RECEPTIVE TO BRITISH MISSION BERLIN ADVICE ON THIS SUBJECT. IN OUR VIEW, THERE IS BASIS FOR SOME CONCERN THAT JUDD OR OTHER BRITISH PUBLIC REMARKS AFTER HIS VISIT MAY RESULT IN CERTAIN DIFFICULTIES IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH SOVIETS AT SPANDAU; HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES HERE ARE AWARE OF OUR CONCERNS, AND THAT THEY WILL DO THEIR BEST TO INSURE THAT MINISTER JUDD TAKES BERLIN SENSITIVITIES INTO ACCOUNT IN WHATEVER CONFIDENTIAL

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PUBLIC STATEMENTS HE MAKES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED FOR LONDON: USBER WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ANY LONDON PRESS REPORTS OF JUDD VISIT TO SPANDAU. VISIT IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR 14 SEPTEMBER. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF THE DATE OF JUDD'S RETURN TO THE UK. ANDERSON

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